



SRCAF NOTES ~ MARCH, 2004

The Sacramento River Conservation Area Forum Board Members:

Don Anderson ~ Chair, Glenn County
Lynnel Pollock ~ Vice Chair, Yolo County
Brendon Flynn ~ Sec./Treas., Tehama County

Bill Borrer, Tehama County

Denny Bungarz, Glenn County

Ben Carter, Colusa County

Mel Dodgin, The Resources Agency

Jane Dolan, Butte County

Marc Faye, Yolo County

Dan Gover, Shasta County

Glenn Hawes, Shasta County

Shirley Lewis, Butte County

Dan Silva, Sutter County

Doug White, Colusa County

Russell Young, Sutter County

Ex-Officio Members:

Frank Michny, Bureau of Reclamation

Darrin Thome, U.S. F&WS

Mark Charlton, Corps of Engineers

Diana Jacobs, Department of Fish & Game

Pete Rabbon, The Reclamation Board

Dwight Russell, Department of Water Resources

Burt Bundy, Manager
(530) 528-7411
bundy@water.ca.gov



Future SRCAF Board and Committee Meetings ~

TAC meeting - April 13, 9:30 a.m.,
Ord Bend Park

LAC meeting - May 12th, 2:00 p.m.,
Colusa County Farm Bureau Office

SRCAF Board meeting - April 15th,
3:00 p.m., Monday Afternoon Club,
Willows

SRCAF Annual BBQ - June 17th,
3:00 p.m. Colusa-Sacramento
River State Park

Projects/Activities Updates

Hamilton City ~ The project continues to move forward and the official authorization process has started. The Draft Feasibility Report/Environmental Impact Statement/Environmental Impact Report (EIS/EIR) has been submitted for printing in the Federal Register on April 2, 2004 triggering a 45-day comment period. The SRCAF will help facilitate a public meeting on May 6th, 7:00 p.m., at the Hamilton City High School Gym to provide an opportunity for comment on the results of the Feasibility Study. Congressional Authorization is anticipated for October, 2004 with potential start of construction in 2006. The tentatively recommended plan would construct 6.8 miles levee, restore 1500 acres of native habitat, remove most of the "J" Levee, and protect existing infrastructure. Estimates are that the new levee will provide at least a 90% chance of passing a 75 year flood event. The estimated total project cost is approximately \$43.8 million. The estimated annual operation and maintenance costs will be approximately \$56,000 and will be the responsibility of the local sponsor. Glenn County is working with local residents to establish a maintenance authority. This winter saw high flows again threatening the community.....

Woodson Bridge- Nationwide, Corps of Engineers Section 1135 funding has been depleted. Until next year's budget, or without specific authorization, all Sec. 1135 studies are on hold until this October. Investigations into allowing the river to return to Kopta Slough to reduce erosion at the west abutment of Woodson Bridge had been moving along until this funding lapse. Hopes are that studies will resume at the start of the 2005 fiscal year.

Sacramento River Conservation Area Forum Strategic Planning— For nearly a year the SRCAF has been conducting a planning and capacity building effort to improve our ability to coordinate activities along the River. The Board has adopted the Mission Statement, Long-Term Vision and Core Values. It is anticipated that adoption of the Programmatic Goals and Strategies, the 3-Year Plan and the Annual Plan will occur at the April meeting. There are suggested governance recommendations to improve the governance of the Forum and the effectiveness of the committees, and a funding plan that need additional discussion. Possible adoption on the Board governance recommendations and funding plan would take place at the June Board meeting. If you have any questions about the planning process, call Burt or Pat at (530) 528-7411.

Colusa Sub-reach Study-Contracts have been submitted to CALFED and it is anticipated that this local planning effort will move forward soon.

Riparian Restoration Planning and Feasibility Study for the Riparian Sanctuary, Llano Seco Unit, Sacramento River National Wildlife Refuge - This project investigates alternatives to (1) Restore 500-acres on the Llano Seco Unit of the Wildlife Refuge and (2) Protect the Princeton, Cordora, Glenn and Provident Irrigation Districts' (PCGID-PID) fish screen and pumping plant. River Partners is working closely with the SRCAF, the PCGID-PID, U.S. Fish and Wildlife, and other stakeholders to find locally supported, ecologically sound solutions for this site. These planning efforts will also provide vital information for making sound floodplain management decisions on future sites. A public meeting has been set for April 28th, 3:00 pm, at the Glenn Pheasant Hunting Center, 1522 Highway 45.



AT THE TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE (TAC)

~ Dan Efseaff, River Partners, presented a new project at the March 2nd TAC, the Drumheller Slough Unit Project. The Partners will seek funding to restore and enhance 226 acres on the property, part of the Sacramento River National Wildlife Refuge. Since this has not yet been funded, and there were still some questions to be answered, the project will not go forward to the Board in March. Instead, Dan will put together the documentation regarding neighbor contact, try to address any other questions, and then bring the project back to the TAC in April. In February there was a presentation by the Department of Fish and Game on the changes to the Streambed Alteration Agreement that were effective on January 1st, 2004. Adam

Henderson and Stacy Cepello from the Department of Water Resources opened a discussion on the use of buffer zones. It was pointed out that there is a great deal of information out there, but the focus needs to be on real problems that have occurred, and why. The April 13th TAC meeting will include a site visit to the Ord Bend Restoration Project, a project that incorporated a number of measures to minimize impacts including owl boxes, new fences, and vegetative screening.

AT THE BOARD ~ Marc Smiley was on hand at the February Board meeting to facilitate public comment and board discussion on the 3-Year Strategic Plan, Annual Plan and Board governance. In March, Sara Schultz from the Corps of Engineers updated the Board on the Hamilton City Project Feasibility Report.

The Landowners Assurances Committee continues in its efforts to finalize the Good Neighbor Policy (GNP). To that end, an ad hoc committee has been working to develop a conflict resolution process for the GNP that would offer a quick response and uses an approach that would encourage broad participation. The Voluntary Alternative Dispute Resolution (VADR) process would increase the amount of contact between a project proponent and adjoining landowners early on in the process. By encouraging communication up front and engaging the landowner in the planning process, it is hoped future conflicts can be avoided. An agreement by the landowner to participate in the VADR process would offer them full cooperation from the proponent and support from the SRCAF to resolve conflicts quickly and effectively should they arise. The VADR process is still being developed, and several questions remain open that will need additional discussion, but this has been viewed as a big step in the right direction.